International terminal of Calcutta Airport

1377. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) by when the new international terminal of Calcutta Airport is going to be completed and would become operational;

(b) what are the reasons for its delay;

(c) the number of interantional flights now operating through Calcutta Airport; and

(d) what attempts are being made by the Government to attract more internaional flights through Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The new Terminal Building is likely to be completed by the end of March, 1994 and is expected to be commissioned by June, 1994.

(b) The delay has been mainly due to revision of scope of work, removal and relocation of existing structures and interference of local anti-social elements.

(c) 104 international flights per week are being operated to/through Calcutta.

(d) As a matter of policy, Government have been offering Calcutta as a point of call for foreign airlines on liberal terms during bilateral air services talks with foreign countries.

Shortage of pilots in IA

1378. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position regarding shortage of Pilots in Indian Airlines;

(b) what are the reasons for such a shortage; and

(c) in what manner Government is contemplating to meet the shortage and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) For optimum utilisation of its fleet Indian Airlines is short of 75 commanders whereas it has got an excess of 46 co-pilots. There is also shortage of senior pilots who can impart training to other pilots.

(b) 105 pilots, most of them Commanders, resigned from the service of Indian Airlines since July, 1992. Owing to deart of senior pilots, there is also slow progres in training.

(c) (i) Director General of Civil Aviation has issued a circular to all private air taxi operators asking them not to employ any of the employees of the national carriers without a 'No objection Certificate' from the employer.

(ii) Indian Airlines has amended its service regulations by which the notice period for resignation has been increased to six months from one month.

(iii) A trainee pilot has to execute a bond for Rs. 10 lakhs to serve the Corporation for a minimum of 10 years after initial training and on each subsequent endorsement.

(iv) Indian Airlines has started negotiations with the Association of pilots for change in career progression, increase in Flight and Duty Time Limitation and acceleration of training programme.

(v) Indian Airlines has also been permitted to engage retired pilots on contract basis.

Stranded passengers at Singapore Airport

1379. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of families from India had got stranded at Singapore airport for more than a week due to non-availability of seats;

(b) if so, whether these families were of Air India employees who were on an excursion trip; and

(c) whether the Civil Aviation authorities in Singapore have warned Air India

not to cause such embarrassing situations at their airports in future; and

(d) if so, whether the Air India management has cautioned its employees not to undertake excursions with families during the rush period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) A number of Air India employees and their families were stranded at Singapore airport in May, 1993. These employees were having free tickets, which were valid for travel on space available basis. Due to sudden demand at Singapore from fare paying passengers, these employees, who held free tickets could not be accommodated and had to stay at Singapore airport. The airport authorities advised Air India to ensure that such instances do not recur. This was reported in the newspapers also.

As a result of this incident, Air India has taken steps to close all flights to Singapore for travel by Staff prior to commencement of the peak season.

New air services

1380. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start Air Services on Pune-Aurangabad-Nanded Bombay and Nasik-Pune-Bombay sector; and

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir. Commercial and operational constraints at present do not permit operation of services on these routes.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement of air-service to Nagaland

1381. SHRI VIZOL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that it takes two days to reach Nagaland by air;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that local air-service connecting Calcutta and Dimapur is available for four days in a week;

(d) whether such service is very irregular causing inconvenience to passengers;

(e) whether Government propose to take some measures to improve the Air Service on this sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines operates two flights a week between Calcutta-Dimapur on Tuesday and Thursday from 1.8.1993. Same day convenient connections have also been provided over Calcutta for passengers travelling from Delhi to Dimapur.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Due to crew constraints, the frequency of the thrice weekly Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur service was reduced to twice weekly, effective 1.8.1993.

Settlement of demands of Indian Airlines Pilot

1382. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister had assured the Indian Airlines Pilots in January, 1993 that their demands would be settled at the earliest and on this assurance their strike was called off on January 24th; and